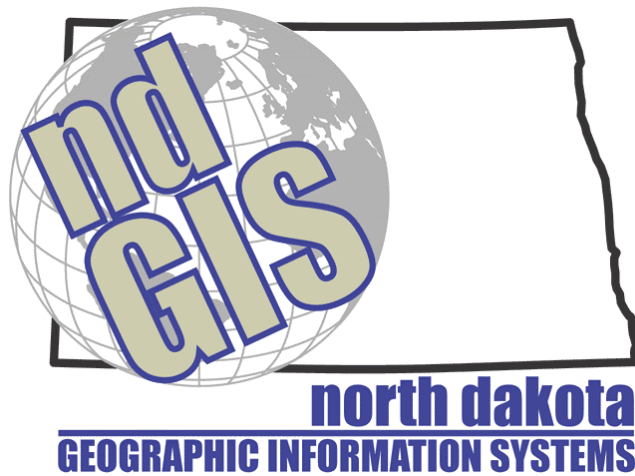


North Dakota GIS Initiative Report To Governor John Hoeven

July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2002



Executive Order 2001-06: "The committee shall issue a report to the Governor's office at the end of each fiscal year, detailing progress, and problems encountered with GIS development in the state."

Executive Summary

The Geographic Information System (GIS) initiative in North Dakota during July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2002 is defined as being the first initiative in the state to be funded, coordinated, and developed in a user-defined collaborative environment. Funding for the GIS Hub during the 2001-2003 Biennium was provided by the State Legislature. A cost-sharing grant provided from FEMA, through the ND Division of Emergency Management allowed the state to maximize the legislative funds.

The State GIS Coordinator, working with the members of the GIS Technical Committee (GISTC), is currently focusing on the development of the State GIS Hub. The Hub will be hosted within the State Information Technology Department's infrastructure and serve as the foundation of all-future GIS work in the state. It will serve state agencies as a first priority. Counties, cities and citizens will also benefit from the technology used in the development of the Hub, both indirectly, by those who serve them, and directly via web access to information on the Hub.

The GISTC has become more involved with GIS throughout the state, by working with individuals and group of people. The GISTC is working to revitalize the State Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC). The SMAC sets mapping priorities throughout the state. The GISTC has become involved with the National I-Team Initiative, which formalizes our work in the state with that of the Federal Government and initiates the possibility of future benefits for the state. The GIS Coordinator is meeting with people from across the state in agencies, counties, cities, higher education, and private enterprise to assist with their GIS needs and strategies.

The trademark of this fiscal year has been the cooperative involvement of many agencies to develop the Hub. Consensus building between the state agencies represented by the GISTC has resulted in the beginning of a GIS strategy and centralized store of valuable spatial data for the State of North Dakota.

Monthly Highlights

August 2001

- GIS Coordinator Bob Nutsch hired and began work.

September 2001

- GIS Technical Committee (GISTC) began meeting on a regular basis.
- Members of the GISTC defined by Executive Order 2001-06.

October 2001

- North Dakota metadata standards, descriptive information about spatial GIS data, developed by GISTC.

November 2001

- SchlumbergerSema retained as consultant to assist GISTC in design, planning, architecture, and implementation of the Hub in November 2001.
- Department of Transportation, Department of Health, State Water Commission selected from the GISTC to serve as Pilot Agencies during the development of the Hub.
- North Dakota GIS Day proclaimed for November 14, 2001.

December 2001

- Began discussions with FEMA/DEM regarding the Devils Lake Project. The Devils Lake application being developed by a FEMA sub-contractor will be hosted on the Hub.
- Preliminary discussions with Department of Commerce. An application being developed by an engineering firm will be hosted on the Hub.

January 2002

- GISTC identified base layers to go onto the Hub and data stewards identified.
- Project Management Plan and Project Vision Document reviewed with ITD and Pilot Agencies.
- Data workshops with Pilot Agencies and SchlumbergerSema.

February 2002

- GIS software training for ITD largely completed.
- Initial Capacity Plan and Architecture Documents developed.
- ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute) software ordered. This is the database and web software for the Hub.
- Prototype database installed, some data loaded.
- Original plan modified, breaking apart the database and web components of the Hub.

- Completed first state coordinated multi-agency GIS training class. This saved state agencies approximately \$4,300 just in training costs, compared to sending the people to out of state training.

March 2002

- Second state coordinated GIS training class, saving \$6,150 in training costs.
- North Dakota GIS logo developed.
- Regular Devils Lake conference call schedule developed to involve ITD, DEM, and FEMA.

April 2002

- Ordered rack-mounted Hub servers.
- Created Data Oversight Committee out of the GISTC to oversee quality control for Hub data.
- Held Full GISTC meeting as per Executive Order 2001-06. People from around the state attended.

May 2002

- Submitted SMAC (State Mapping Advisory Committee) membership list to Governor as per the Executive Orders.
- Agreed to make North Dakota a member of the National I-Team GIS initiative.
- USGS topographic map data loaded onto the Hub in a seamless or "mosaicked" file, a first for North Dakota. Files were initially 52 gigabytes in total disk space.
- Completed new GIS web site outline. Approved by GISTC.
- Completed another round of ArcGIS II training with a class hosted by DOT. Course consisted of 12 students from seven agencies. Saved \$6,150 in training costs.
- ESRI validated the Pilot Hub database.

June 2002

- Web mapping software installed and running.
- Developed themes of data to be displayed on the web – awaiting approval of GISTC.
- Nearly all Hub metadata developed and in Pilot database, a first for North Dakota.
- New GIS web site graphics developed.
- GIS Hub database nearly ready for production.

Goals

- Bring the Hub to full production, including the web component, in August 2002.
- Training in the effective use of the Hub in the form of informal seminars around the state.
- Develop and enhance the Hub with additional data, functionality, and applications.
- Market the Hub, making people aware of its flexibility and functionality.
- Make the Hub and GIS an integral part of daily State government business and service to the citizens of the state.

Challenges

- Funding – The foresight by the Governor and the State Legislature, coupled with the funding from FEMA for the Devils Lake project will produce a GIS Hub that will be used in the daily business of state agencies, counties and cities. Continued funding for the Hub is critical to allow the Hub to continue providing services to the state, which in turn eliminates forcing agencies to develop duplicated hardware, software, administration, and GIS data systems.
- Data acquisition – to really make the Hub fly, several state agencies require additional data, such as digital elevation models, or DEM. The GISTC and the State Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC) will continue working to identify data needs.
- Streamlining GIS activities in the state – a state-wide GIS strategy must be developed that encompasses state agencies, counties, cities, tribal, and higher education to maximize the benefits offered by the Hub. Bridges of communication must be established between the various centers of GIS activity within the state.